

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
EXTENSION SERVICE  
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INTEGRATION OF EXTENSION SERVICE ACTIVITIES IN FARM  
AND HOME PLANNING

Summary of discussion on farm and home planning at Quarterly  
Staff Conference, Extension Service, South Building,  
Washington, D. C., July 1, 1946. Prepared by  
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At the regular quarterly conference of Federal Extension Service workers farm and home planning was one of the topics discussed during the afternoon session of July 1. Mrs. Alva Blackmon, extension specialist, family food supply, from Arkansas, and Mr. J. R. Paulling, extension specialist in field crops, from Missouri, participated in this program. (Their papers are mimeographed separately.)

After the presentation of the papers, the topic was discussed and the following points were developed:

1. A program in farm and home planning must be a State-initiated program and not one developed by the Federal Extension Service.
2. Federal personnel can aid the program of the States most by assisting the State specialists in organizing their work to contribute most to the program.
3. The program, to be successful, requires the skills and active support of all extension personnel within a State.
4. So far as farm people are concerned, the specialties of individual workers take on a greater significance when considered in relation to other specialties than when each specialty stands alone. In other words farm people are interested more in programs than in projects.
5. The adoption of the many recommended practices is increased when their importance to over-all success is realized.

The following definition for farm and home planning as conducted by the Extension Service was presented and represents the views of most workers here.

"The Extension Service program in farm and home planning can be defined as an educational technique designed to coordinate the activities of extension personnel for the purpose of assisting farm people in making the best use of all their resources. To do this the Extension Service will assist farm people, in view of both short- and long-time outlook, in their efforts to plan their farming operations carefully to:



1. Arrive at the best possible size and combination of enterprises.
2. Correlate the use of various recommended farm and home practices.
3. Achieve high production.
4. Obtain high net income.
5. Improve soil productivity.
6. Achieve a better living for the family.
7. Lessen the drudgery of farm and home work.
8. Lower per-unit costs of production through more efficient use of labor, equipment, and supplies.

This involves the three major decisions farmers are constantly required to make and be fully informed upon, namely (1) What to do, (2) When to do it, and (3) How will the job be done?